

HOUSE No. 1049

By Ms. Spiliotis of Peabody, petition of Joyce A. Spiliotis and others for legislation to provide for the awarding of a certificate of occupational proficiency for those students enrolled in vocational education programs. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Joyce A. Spiliotis | Theodore A. Spiliotis |
| Richard T. Moore | Michael F. Rush |
| Patricia D. Jehlen | Barbara A. L'Italien |
| Paul J. Donato | Kathi-Anne Reinstein |
| Anthony J. Verga | William C. Galvin |
| Stephen R. Canessa | Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. |
| Kathleen M. Teahan | Stephen P. LeDuc |
| John D. Keenan | Susan C. Fargo |
| Elizabeth A. Malia | Brian Knuuttila |
| Michael E. Festa | |

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RECOGNIZING VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL LEARNING IN EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT.

1 *Whereas*, the deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat
2 its purpose, which is to immediately provide for an appropriate
3 recognition of vocational-technical learning in educational assess-
4 ment in the commonwealth, therefore it is hereby declared to be
5 an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of
6 the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in
2 the 2000 Official Edition, is hereby amended in Section 1D by
3 striking out lines 85 — 93, inclusive, and inserting in place
4 thereof the following:—

5 (iii) The “certificate of occupational proficiency” shall be
6 awarded to students who successfully complete a comprehensive
7 education and training program in a particular trade or profes-
8 sional skill area and who have successfully completed an acad-
9 emic assessment tailored to the particular academic objectives of
10 vocational educational programs. The occupational component of
11 the certificate of occupational proficiency shall reflect a determi-
12 nation that the recipient has demonstrated mastery of a core of
13 skills, competencies and knowledge comparable to that possessed
14 by students of equivalent age entering the particular trade or pro-
15 fession from the most educationally advanced education systems
16 in the world. The academic component of the certificate of occu-
17 pational proficiency shall be designed to measure the specific aca-
18 demic competencies most central to the particular trade or
19 professional skill area in which the student has pursued a course
20 of study, and shall take into account the additional, non-traditional
21 academic accomplishments inherent in a vocational educational
22 program.

23 The academic and educational components of the certificate of
24 occupational proficiency shall be developed by the board after
25 consultation with and an opportunity for effective input by local
26 vocational education administrators recommended by the Massa-
27 chusetts Association for Vocational Administrators. Separate
28 standards shall be developed for each particular trade or profes-
29 sional skill area. Attainment of a certificate of occupational profi-
30 ciency shall satisfy, as a condition for high school graduation, the
31 requirements of a competency determination under clause (i) of
32 this section. However, no student enrolled in a program of voca-
33 tional education shall be required, as a condition of graduation
34 from high school, to attain either a competency determination or a
35 certificate of occupational proficiency until the fourth school year
36 following the promulgation by the board of the standards for a
37 certificate of occupational proficiency for the particular trade or
38 professional skill area in which the student has pursued or is pur-
39 suing a course of study.